

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Claims 1 and 2 (cancelled)

3. (previously presented) A fact data unifying apparatus, comprising:

a data extracting unit extracting from a text fact data stipulated by a combination of a target object, an attribute name, and an attribute value;

a data aggregating unit grouping data of a same type among fact data extracted by said data extracting unit, and aggregating a number of occurrences of the fact data throughout the text into at least one data set;

an inconsistency detecting unit detecting an inconsistent data group which cannot be consistent by scanning a data set aggregated by said data aggregating unit;

a correctness/incorrectness determining unit determining which data is correct within the inconsistent data group detected by said inconsistency detecting unit;

a final data integrating unit integrating correct data aggregated by said data aggregating unit, and data determined to be correct by said correctness/incorrectness determining unit;

a reliability degree assigning unit assigning a degree of reliability to fact data when the fact data is extracted from the text, where the degree of reliability of aggregated data is calculated from the degrees of reliability of the fact data included in the aggregated data, and assigned to an aggregation result, when the numbers of occurrences are aggregated by said data aggregating unit, said correctness/incorrectness determining unit determining whether each data within a data group is either correct or incorrect by using the degree of reliability assigned to the data.

4. (previously presented) The fact data unifying apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said reliability degree assigning unit comprises:

an event type extracting unit determining a type of event information possessed by a text from which fact data is to be extracted when the fact data is extracted from the text, and

a reliability degree evaluating unit evaluating the degree of reliability according to an event type based on a correspondence table between an event type and the degree of reliability.

5. (previously presented) The fact data unifying apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said reliability degree assigning unit comprises:

an attention degree evaluating unit calculating a degree of attention to a target object to be extracted within a text, and

a reliability degree evaluating unit evaluating the degree of reliability of data based on the degree of attention.

6. (previously presented) The fact data unifying apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said reliability degree assigning unit comprises:

a bibliographical information/reliability degree correspondence table making a correspondence between bibliographical information of at least one of an issuance source[[:]] and an author of a text, and the degree of reliability of each of the fact data described in the text; and

a reliability degree evaluating unit evaluating the degree of reliability of a text according to bibliographical information of the text by referencing said bibliographical information/reliability degree correspondence table, when data is extracted from the text.

7. (original) The fact data unifying apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said bibliographical information/reliability degree correspondence table is generated by attaching a correctness/incorrectness flag to fact data extracted by said data extracting unit, by receiving as an input the fact data to which the correctness/incorrectness flag is attached, and by calculating an expectation value of correctness/incorrectness of data having a particular attribute value for each attribute name of the fact data.

8. (previously presented) A fact data unifying apparatus, comprising:

a data extracting unit extracting from a text fact data stipulated by a combination of a target object, an attribute name, and an attribute value;

a data aggregating unit grouping data of a same type among fact data extracted by said data extracting unit, and aggregating a number of occurrences of the fact data throughout the text into at least one data set;

an inconsistency detecting unit detecting an inconsistent data group which cannot be consistent by scanning a data set aggregated by said data aggregating unit;

a correctness/incorrectness determining unit determining which data is correct within the inconsistent data group detected by said inconsistency detecting unit;

a final data integrating unit integrating correct data aggregated by said data aggregating unit, and data determined to be correct by said correctness/incorrectness determining unit;

an attribute/determination method correspondence table which makes a correspondence between a target object, an attribute name, and a determination method used when a correctness/incorrectness determination is made; and

a determination method deciding unit deciding a correctness/incorrectness determining method according to an attribute based on said attribute/determination method correspondence table, said correctness/incorrectness determining unit making a correctness/incorrectness determination by a method specified by said determination method deciding unit, when an inconsistent data group is input.

9. (previously presented) A fact data unifying apparatus, comprising:

a data extracting unit extracting from a text fact data stipulated by a combination of a target object, an attribute name, and an attribute value;

a data aggregating unit grouping data of a same type among fact data extracted by said data extracting unit, and aggregating a number of occurrences of the fact data throughout the text into at least one data set;

an inconsistency detecting unit detecting an inconsistent data group which cannot be consistent by scanning a data set aggregated by said data aggregating unit;

a correctness/incorrectness determining unit determining which data is correct within the inconsistent data group detected by said inconsistency detecting unit;

a final data integrating unit integrating correct data aggregated by said data aggregating unit, and data determined to be correct by said correctness/incorrectness determining unit; and

an error pattern removing unit, arranged between said data extracting unit and said inconsistency detecting unit, making a correctness/incorrectness determination for each data by making a matching between the fact data extracted by said data extracting unit and a pre-registered error pattern, determines and discards the extracted fact data as an error if the extracted fact data matches the pre-registered error pattern, and transmits only data determined to be correct to said inconsistency detecting unit.

10. (previously presented) A fact data unifying apparatus, comprising:
 - a data extracting unit extracting from a text fact data stipulated by a combination of a target object, an attribute name, and an attribute value;
 - a data aggregating unit grouping data of a same type among fact data extracted by said data extracting unit, and aggregating a number of occurrences of the fact data throughout the text into at least one data set;
 - an inconsistency detecting unit detecting an inconsistent data group which cannot be consistent by scanning a data set aggregated by said data aggregating unit;
 - a correctness/incorrectness determining unit determining which data is correct within the inconsistent data group detected by said inconsistency detecting unit;
 - a final data integrating unit integrating correct data aggregated by said data aggregating unit, and data determined to be correct by said correctness/incorrectness determining unit; and
 - a data integrating unit, arranged after said data aggregating unit, integrating similar data into integrated data and supplying the integrated data to said inconsistency detecting unit.

Claims 11 and 12 (cancelled)